

SuperMed products comprise the substantial majority of its health insurance business. Moreover, Medical Mutual's enrollment has been steadily increasing in market share among commercial insurers for the last five years. Medical Mutual's increasing domination of the commercial insurance market makes its refusal to deal with UHC for SuperMed products a growing concern for Cleveland area patients and businesses and for competition as a whole.

The Target provision will have significantly negative financial effects in the Cleveland area marketplace. The two biggest, most diversified hospitals in the Cleveland area are UHC and CCF. Both hospitals offer a wide range of primary through tertiary inpatient and ambulatory services; both hospitals have over 1,000 beds and hundreds of physicians on staff; and both hospitals discharged approximately 40,000 patients last year. Meanwhile, the other secondary hospitals in the Cleveland area are not thriving or have become part of the CCF system. Mount Sinai Medical Center's financial problems have been reported in the press. Meridia Hillcrest Hospital, Fairview General Hospital and Metrohealth medical Center have all either merged with or become affiliated with CCF. It is not unrealistic to project that through acquisitions or attrition, the future of the Cleveland area market will devolve to the two largest competitors, UHC and CCF. Because of these economic realities, Cleveland area residents and businesses have a substantial interest in free and unfettered competition in order to ensure the long-term health of all competitors.

In the years that the Contract has been in place, UHC has aggressively worked to counteract the effects of the Target provision by actively marketing its services, reconfiguring its finances, and focusing on other sectors of the population. However, these measures cannot sustain UHC in the long term. UHC increasingly has been meeting its operating expenses by relying on its endowment as opposed to its operating revenues.

The purpose and effect of the Target provision is to alter UHC's patient mix in a way which seriously reduces UHC's operating revenue. Equally important, patient choice is being undermined by the anticompetitive agreement between Medical Mutual, the area's most prolific private health insurer, and CCF.

Conclusion

The proposed Consent Decree purports to restore competition in the health insurance and hospital services markets in the Cleveland area. Although it takes a much needed and significant step in that direction, its failure to address the Target provision in the Medical Mutual/CCF SuperMed contract substantially undercuts the effectiveness of the Consent Decree in achieving its stated purpose. UHC urges the Department of Justice to expand the inquiry into Medical Mutual's anticompetitive practices and to rectify Medical Mutual's blatantly restrictive and unlawful agreement with CCF. Failure to do so will deprive consumers of choice of their health care providers, reduce competition in the Cleveland area and drive up UHC's costs of doing business.

Very truly yours,
Charles E. Koob.
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Immigration and Naturalization Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

ACTION: Notice of information collection under review; application for certificate of citizenship in behalf of an adopted child.

The Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service has submitted the following information collection request for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for "sixty days" until March 15, 1999.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information should address one or more of the following four points:

- (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of this information collection:

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* Reinstatement without change of previously approved collection.

(2) *Title of Form/Collection:* Application for Certificate of Citizenship in Behalf of an Adopted Child.

(3) *Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department of Justice sponsoring the collection:* Form N-643, Adjudications

Division, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

(4) *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:* Primary: Individuals or Households. This information collection allows United States citizen parents to apply for a certificate of citizenship on behalf of their adopted alien children.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* 11,159 responses at 1 hour per response.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* 11,159 annual burden hours.

If you have additional comments, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions, or additional information, please contact Richard A. Sloan 202-514-3291, Director, Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Department of Justice, Room 5307, 425 I Street, NW., Washington, DC 20536. Additionally, comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time may also be directed to Mr. Richard A. Sloan.

If additional information is required contact: Mr. Robert B. Briggs, Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Information Management and Security Staff, Justice Management Division, Suite 850, Washington Center, 1001 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20530.

Dated: January 7, 1999.

Richard A. Sloan,

Department Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Immigration and Naturalization Service

[INS No. 1971-99]

Announcement of District Advisory Council on Immigration Matters Fifth Meeting

AGENCY: Immigration and Naturalization Service, Justice.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Immigration and Naturalization Service (Service) has established a District Advisory Council on Immigration Matters (DACOIM) to provide the New York District Director